LOCAL SUBJECTS.

CARDAMOM HILLS DISTRICT.

SUBJECTS.

59. Modification of the procedure adopted for the collection of tax in the Peermade district.

Mr. H. C. Westaway (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that the manner in which the taxes were collected in the Peermade district caused great trouble and annoyance to the Planters. It was chiefly due to the circumstance that, while the accounts were kept in one office, payments had to be made through another. Demands for tax were not infrequently made on the original owner even long after he had sold his estate. In one instance, coercive processes were taken for the recovery of tax even though the dues had been fully paid. At present, the accounts were maintained in the office of the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, while payments were made to the Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills. In view to save further complications, the Member requested that orders might be issued for all accounts being maintained by the Superintendent in future.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be considered.

60. Opening of Liquor shops in the vicinity of Planters' Estates.

Mr. H. C. Westaway (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) referred to the great increase of drunkenness of late in the Peermade district. On Sundays, that is, market days, it was impossible to walk along the Government road without meeting coolies reeling and staggering about. There had been instances in which Europeans were insulted, and, in one instance, a lady had stones thrown at her. It was also hard that the coolies should thus squander their weekly allowance of cash on drink instead of buying eatables for the coming week. The sufferers were the poor women and children. He said that, on the 8th November 1904, his Association received a promise from Government that no new arrack taverns would be sanctioned without first obtaining their views, but the promise was not fulfilled, as the one at the Maimallay Ghat and also the one at Kuttikanum near the Residency had been re-opened. When the Planters complained against the re-opening of the shops, they were informed that nothing could be done till the close of 1084. During the last month, the Meenachil Abkari Officer visited Peermade with seven open licenses and issued them with no exception on different estates, some of which were not even in the Meenachil taluk. One of these new licenses was issued to an employé on Woodlands Estate without

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